Retro~Lux

Vintage Audio Products

USER MANUAL

for

Etronic RA640

Project No. 5051

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1 Introduction

Thank you for buying one of our beautiful radios! We hope it will provide hours of trouble-free, high quality entertainment.

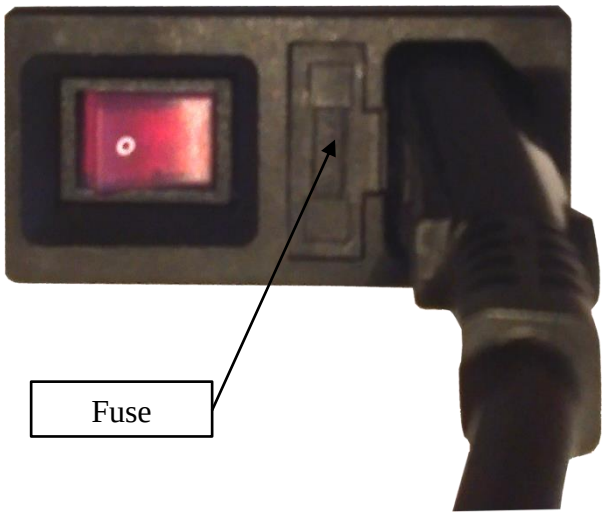
Your radio is easy to set up and use and, with a few simple precautions, will continue to look good and operate efficiently for many years.

WARNING

ELECTRIC SHOCK RISK

This unit contains no user serviceable parts.
Under no circumstances remove the rear panel with the mains voltage connected.

2 Power Connection



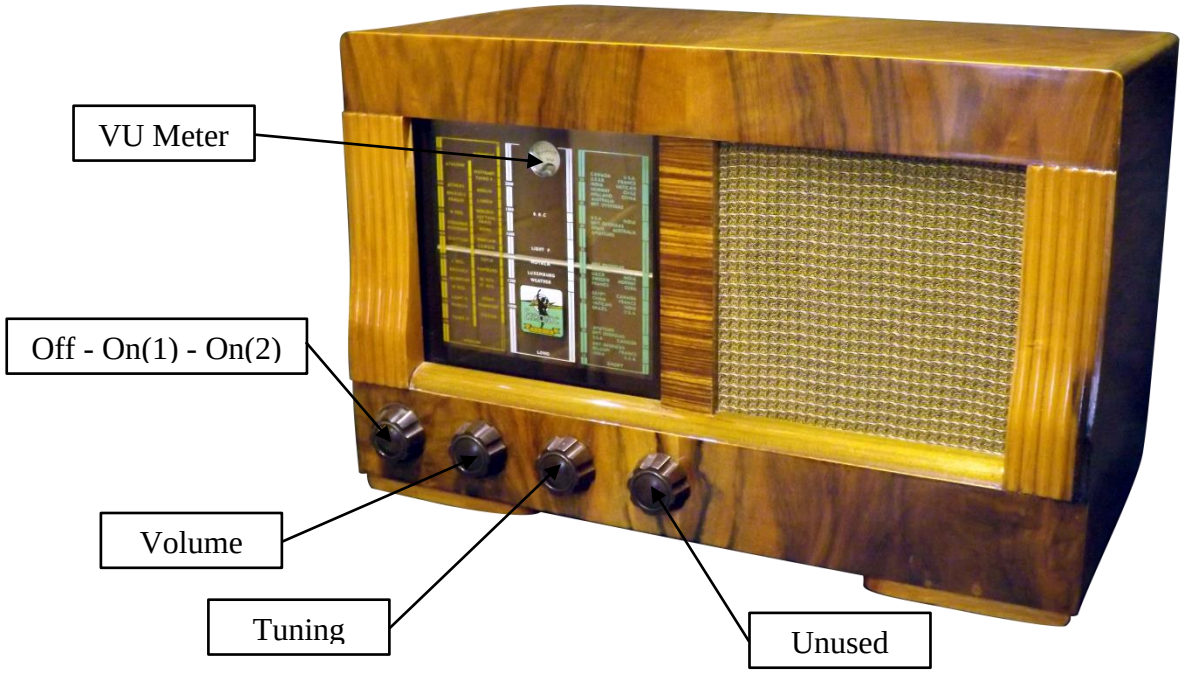
The power mains power connection is via an IEC connector fitted at the rear. Insert the supplied power lead and connect to a mains outlet. Switch on the supply at the mains outlet, and then operate the mains switch on the unit. The switch will illuminate if power is present, which means that the unit is in standby mode.

If your radio is equipped with rechargeable batteries, this is also the batteries will now be charging. Charge the batteries for at least 2 hours before running on batteries alone.

If the switch fails to illuminate, first check that the mains supply is present, then disconnect the supply and check the fuse in the mains plug and the unit inlet connector. In the unlikely event that any of the fuses have blown the unit may be faulty.

3 Controls

The radio controls are as shown below:



3.1 On-Off

This is a three-position switch. Turn fully anti-clockwise to turn the radio off. The first switch position turns the radio on with the dial illumination on. The second position turns off the illumination.

3.2 Volume

Turn fully anti-clockwise to reduce the volume and clockwise to increase.

3.3 Tuning

This is decorative only and moves the tuning dial indicator.

3.4 Unused

This control has no function.

3.5 VU Meter

The original unit had a ‘magic-eye’ tuning level indicator. The radio does not have a tuning function, or the high voltages necessary to drive a ‘magic-eye’ valve so this has been replaced with a miniature VU meter which indicates audio signal level.

4 Bluetooth Operation

The radio requires an audio signal from a Bluetooth device such as a smartphone, tablet, laptop or PC. If your device is already paired with an audio device such as headphones or a hands-free headset you may have to un-pair it first.

Please refer to your device's instructions to place the unit in scan mode to scan for Bluetooth devices. With your device in scan mode, turn the volume control up by about one-third, switch the radio on to standby mode at the power inlet, and then turn on using the front panel control.

You should hear 'Bluetooth Mode' from the radio, and the device named 'YET-M1' should appear in the list of available devices on your Bluetooth device. Select 'YET-M1' to pair with it and, if prompted, enter '0000' as the code. You should then hear 'Paired' from the radio.

Play some audio from your device and you should hear it through the radio. After pairing for the first time the two devices should pair automatically when you power up the radio unless you actively disconnect, or un-pair it from your device.

If you have difficulty pairing you may have to turn off the radio at the front panel then turn on again to initiate the pairing process, and reset your device to scan mode.

The range of the Bluetooth receiver in the radio is about 10 metres. Outside this range you may experience drop-outs, especially if you are in another room, although reception is good throughout an average family-sized house.

5 Care and Cleaning

5.1 Positioning the Radio

Do not allow this product to be exposed to water, steam or sand. Do not leave your radio where excessive heat could cause damage such as in a parked car or in a conservatory where the heat from the sun can build up even though the outside temperature may not seem too high. Do not position the radio close to a radiator or other type of heater.

Your radio should not be exposed to dripping or splashing water and no objects filled with liquids, such as vases, should be placed on the radio.

It is recommended to operate the product such that there is a minimum distance (10cm recommended) to adjacent objects in order to ensure good ventilation. The ventilation of the product should not be restricted by covering it or its ventilation openings with items such as newspapers, tablecloths, curtains etc.

No naked flame sources such as lighted candles should be placed on or near the product.

Do not place this product in an area which receives direct sunlight, as this can cause fading to the finish.

5.2 Cleaning

Your radio will only need cleaning from time to time with a soft duster or lint-free cloth. Splashes and other marks can be wiped with a damp cloth.

Under no circumstances use household cleaning products, solvents or cleaners as they are liable to damage the finish. Do not use silicone based polishes.

Your radio has been sealed with a modern synthetic varnish and polished with furniture wax, which provides a long-tasting durable protection. The wax finish can be refreshed with energetic buffing. Occasionally apply a thin coat of wax and buff to a high sheen, but avoid frequent over-waxing as the wax layers can build up trapping fine dirt and dust which dimishes the appearance.

6 Guarantee

This product is guaranteed for six months from the date of delivery to the original owner against failure due to faulty workmanship or component breakdown, subject to the procedure stated below. Should any component or part fail during this guarantee period it will be repaired or replaced free of charge.

This guarantee does not cover:

- Damage resulting from incorrect use
- Products which have been altered or tampered with externally or internally
- Consequential damage

Any claim under this guarantee should be made by contacting Retro-Lux or the dealer from whom the product was purchased to see if the problem can be rectified. Should it be necessary to return the product for repair or replacement instructions for its return will be provided by Retro-Lux.

These statements do not affect your statutory rights as a consumer.

7 Specifications

Power Supply	
Input Supply	90-264 VAC (wide range) 127-300 VDC, 74W, 47-440 Hz, inrush < 50 A peak @ 230 VAC, cold start @ 25C
Batteries	2 x 12V, 1.2aH sealed lead-acid rechargeable (lasts approx. 4 hours at moderate volume)
Amplifier	
Power Output	20.4W RMS / 30W Music Power
Mode	Mono
Distortion	2% at maximum power
Audio Source	Internal Bluetooth receiver
Tone Control	None
Loudspeaker	
Type	8 inch Dual Cone Full Range
Impedance	8 ohms
Frequency	40Hz - 16kHz
Power	60W RMS / 120W Peak SPL @1W/1m: 90dB
Dimensions	
Width	48cm
Depth	25cm
Height	31cm
Weight	11.5kg (with batteries)

8 History

The Etronic RA640 AC mains valve radio was originally made in 1948 by the Hale Electric Company Limited based in West Ealing, London W13. The price was £21 13s 9d, equivalent to £760 in today's money. The set is housed in a very attractive wooden cabinet constructed from plywood decorated with several different types of wood veneer.

The control knobs (left to right) were originally: on/off and treble, waveband, tuning, and volume and the radio was capable of receiving short (15 to 51 Metres), medium, (190 to 550 Metres) and long (900 to 2200 Metres) wavebands.

The impressive glass tuning band display also housed a 'magic-eye' tuning indicator valve.

The original varnish on this model had become opaque over the years, either through deterioration or general grime, and had the appearance of a toffee-coloured coating which completely masked the grain and figuring of the underlying veneers. The old varnish was completely stripped, and the case re-finished to a high gloss which has brought out the warmth and attractiveness of the veneers.

Internally, the valve radio components were stripped out, but the tuning mechanism and display was left in place. A PSU, power amplifier, Bluetooth receiver and 8" dual concentric loudspeaker have been fitted, the speaker cloth has been replaced, and the original 'magic-eye' replaced with an illuminated VU meter. The set is also equipped with batteries which means it will operated either from mains or battery power.

A replacement back panel to meet modern regulations completed the upgrade.

There is a mains switch on the rear, and the front panel controls have been reassigned as follows: the left hand control is a rotary switch with 3 positions: off, on (with illumination), on (power saving, no illumination). Next is the volume control, followed the tuning control which moves the tuning indicator (but has no other function). The final control is decorative only.

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